integer of 1 to 50, provided that when n^1 and/or n^2 are or is 2 or more, B^1 and B need not be identical, and R's need not be identical.

Page 7, please replace original paragraph 1 with new paragraph 1 as follows:

The pyrimidine or purine nucleic acid base in the present invention refers to thymine, uracil, cytosine, adenine, guanine, or a derivative thereof.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace original claim 1 with new claim 1 as <u>fo</u>llows:

1. A nucleoside analogue of the following formula (I)

where B is a pyrimidine or purine nucleic acid base, or an analogue thereof, and X and Y are identical or different, and each represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an

aralkyl group, an aryl group, an acyl group, or a silyl group, or an amidite derivative thereof.

Please replace original claim 2 with new claim 2 as follows:

2. A nucleoside analogue as claimed in claim 1, wherein X and Y each represents a hydrogen atom.

Please replace original claim 3 with new claim 3 as follows:

3. A mononucleoside amidite derivative as claimed in claim 1, wherein X is 4,4-dimethoxytrityl (DMTr), and Y is a 2-cyanoethoxy(diisopropylamino)phosphano group.

Please replace original claim 4 with new claim 4 as follows:

4. An oligonucleotide or polynucleotide analogue having one or more structures or the formula (Ia)

(1a)

where B is a pyrimidine or purine nucleic acid base, or a an analogue thereof.

Please replace original claim 5 with new claim 5 as follows:

5. An oligonucleotide or polynucleotide analogue of the formula (II)

where B¹ and B are identical or different, and each represents a pyrimidine or purine nucleic acid base, or an analogue thereof, R is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a halogen atom, or an alkoxy group,

 W^1 and W^2 are identical or different, and each represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl

group, a cycloalkyl group, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, an acyl group, a silyl group, a phosphoric acid residue, a naturally occurring nucleoside or a synthetic nucleoside bound via a phosphodiester bond, or an oligonucleotide or polynucleotide containing the nucleoside, n¹ or n² are identical or different, and each denotes an integer of 0 to 50, provided that n¹ and n² are not both zero, and that not all of the n² are zero at the same time, n³ denotes an integer of 1 to 50, provided that when n¹ and/or n² are or is 2 or more, B¹ and B need not be identical and R need not be identical.

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